

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED Approved For Release 2002/08/20 : CIA-RDP63-00313A000600110004-0

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This document contains information
referring to Project **CORONA**

COR-0019

Cy 2 of 6

4 June 1958



MEMORANDUM FOR: Cover Officer, DPS/DCI

SUBJECT : Project CORONA Cover Story

REFERENCE : Memorandum from Cover Officer, dated 2 June 1958 (COR-0047 with attachment)

1. I have read the referenced paper and it seems to me entirely satisfactory, provided it can be made consistent with ARPA's explanation of its need for funds and for boosters for its various programs.

2. In a discussion in Mr. Johnson's office several days ago it was stated:

a. That all missile activities for purely scientific purposes and hence most instrumented missile and satellite firings were to become the responsibility of the new civilian Agency.

b. That in any event, physicists and others swarm around these firings in as great numbers and with as great curiosity as biomedical experts swarm around biomedical firings.

c. That ARPA was always having trouble justifying the number of firings in the Man-in-Space program. These considerations make it difficult to find any good cover explanation of scheduling CORONA launchings that (1) does not excite embarrassing curiosity about some group of outsiders, and (2) accounts for the CORONA launchings as part of a program which is legitimately within ARPA's province.

3. These complications and uncertainties being what they are, I would appreciate if you would go over this paper at your earliest convenience with to see what changes, if any, he recommends. It may be that the best you can do at this time is modify it slightly in the direction of vagueness as to that part of the cover story which departs from the straight

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biomedical explanation. My own view, however, is that the unclassified story as you have written it could satisfactorily explain a rather extensive Man-in-Space program starting with instrumented and missile test launchings and leading only at a later stage to launchings with animals.

4. I have no comment to make on the classified story which I believe you should also try out on [] I would like to confer with you further after you have discussed this with [] and received any other comments from senior staff members at Headquarters. It seems to me urgent that this be completed in some version by close of business on 6 June if that is at all possible.

SIGNED []

RICHARD M. BIESELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

SA/PD/DCI:RMB: []
1-Cover Officer, DPS/DCI
2-Security Officer, DPS/DCI
3-Director of Admin, DPS/DCI
4-Deputy Director, DPS/DCI
5-SA/PD/DCI Subject
6-SA/PD/DCI CORONA Chrono

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